

JAKARTA

Bobby's Bobble

The reaction of the British to Bobby Kennedy's Indonesian junket recalls the old days when his father was infuriating their fathers from his ambassadorial post in London. Even the non-Communist Leftists, who for the past several years have been bowing every time the name "Kennedy" has been mentioned, got downright sassy. From Singapore Alex Josey reported to the anti-colonial ark of Leftism, *The New Statesman*: "President Johnson's

Abroad

peacemaker has been unable to grasp the basic facts of the Malaysian crisis. . . . Sukarno may be doing no more than pulling back in order to regroup his forces, retrain his saboteurs and see what advantage he can gain from trying to blackmail Kennedy for American aid. . . . Kennedy's attitude toward Sukarno is based upon [the] fallacy that Sukarno is a bulwark against Communism, and that insults and aggressions must be suffered because of this. Now Malaysia has had a great deal of experience with Asian Communism, and the American belief is held in utter ridicule. For Kennedy to repeat, with approval, Sukarno's jest about Asians solving Asian problems in an Asian manner, indicates that he was out of his depth."

MUNICH

RIAS Muted

West German officials did not hide their alarm as the Voice of America's long-wave transmitter here—the most powerful transmitting station in Germany—shut down on February 1. In return for this plus unspecified concessions on content, the Russians have promised that—after June 19—they will stop jamming what is left of VOA. It has been through this transmitter that RIAS, Berlin's famous freedom station, has been able to blanket East Germany and get through to any standard receiving set. From now on RIAS will transmit only by short-wave, which only a small minority of households can pick up. Intelligence experts, analyzing this latest manifestation of Washington-Moscow détente, note that Moscow and East Germany have always considered cessation of "provocative American propaganda broadcasts" to be a major step toward a "relaxation" in Berlin.

PHNOM PENH

The Laotian Way

South Vietnam's Coup #2 has convinced Prince Norodom Sihanouk that he must press with even greater insistence toward convocation of an international conference to formalize Cambodian neutrality. Sihanouk is no "Red prince," like Laotian Prince Souphanouvong, but just a comfortable and fairly smart aristocrat trying to get along in the complex modern world. He interpreted the Harriman troika deal in Laos as indicating that the West was on the way out of Southeast Asia; and the anti-Diem coup as proving that time grows short. He feels he must cut

all special ties with the West, especially with the United States, and try to maneuver as best he can under a neutrality formula. In spite of official U.S. rejection of the conference proposal, he knows from French agents that Averell Harriman has been discussing the terms of a neutralization agreement with the French and British. Serious observers assume that the other Southeast Asian countries will inevitably and quickly follow along the Laotian-Cambodian road if Harriman's plan goes through—if they don't beat Cambodia to it, now that de Gaulle has given the signal.

SRINAGAR

Hair's Breadth

It had been hoped that return of the stolen hair of the Prophet's beard to the Hazratbal shrine would bring an end to the mass riots that have swept Kashmir since the original theft in December. But they have continued over the past fortnight on a scale that has brought numerous killings in clashes between Moslem mobs and the Indian-controlled Hindu police. The populace is con-



Yedioth, Ahronoth, Israel

Ben Roth Agency

"May I take it home, Dad?"

vinced that the returned hair is not the genuine article, and no one has yet figured out how to prove the point one way or the other. As an indirect result of the Kashmir disturbances, Moslem mobs in East Pakistan are demonstrating against the local Hindu minority there, and tens of thousands of frightened Hindus are seeking to cross the border into Indian Bengal. But with Calcutta already jammed to the gutters with refugees, and bleeding from the past month of riots that have taken several hundred lives, the Indian authorities are trying to stem any mass influx.

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